

THE TRUE DEMOCRAT.

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It is now said that Mrs. "hadwick has salted away something like a million in cold cash, besides about \$150,000 in jewels, as a part of her "net earnings" in the several transactions in which she has recently been engaged. Thus is industry rewarded.

Thomas Jefferson advocated the "restriction of monopolies" (letter to Madison, 1787), but never the public ownership of public utilities, notwithstanding the assertions to that effect of some who make loud claims as ardent followers of the great apostle of true Democracy.

The first issue of The True Democrat is presented as the fruit of much labor, under greatest difficulties. It is not up to our own ideal, but as we get affairs under work organized, and into a larger building, we will do better, make the paper larger, and we hope still better.

Mr. Bryan and the Democratic party are nearer "together" today than they have ever been before. Both have had time and opportunity and incentive to unlearn many things and to learn others about each other. What is to prevent a final consummation of harmonious relations between them before the next Presidential contest?

Tremendous calculations are being indulged in by the bibulously inclined who expect to be present at the State capital during the coming session of the Legislature upon the ease and facility with which the supposedly popular demand for strong drink will be met and satisfied by the inevitable "blind tigers." In this they may be reckoning without regard to the enthusiasm of the ladies and the clergy, by whose efforts the election was carried for the "dry" side. However, or to the staunch and efficient performance of the officers of the law, city and municipal.

Roosevelt has assured Rep. Campbell, of Kansas, that the power of his administration could be used in the investigation of the Standard Oil Company, into the affairs of the Standard Oil Company, to the end that the small producer, dealer and consumer alike shall have fair treatment, and that at the same time no injustice shall be done the Standard Oil Company or any other concern. That is certainly the right spirit in which such investigations should be conducted—the judicial spirit. If the Standard Oil Company, in Kansas or elsewhere, has wilfully violated any law, it should, upon due proof, receive just punishment, as in the case of any natural person, to the end that it may be restrained from future violations; and if it has encroached upon or disregarded the rights of others, the fact should be ascertained and made known, that due reparation may be made. If it is innocent it should welcome and facilitate such investigation, and thus secure its vindication.

President Eliot, of Harvard College, cites the example of Bermuda, where there is a large preponderance of blacks, where suffrage is based upon educational and property qualifications, where the white minority rules and where the public schools are maintained by taxation, but attended only by negroes, white children being educated at private cost; and he deduces from these conditions the somewhat extraordinary assertion that "if the Southern people would attack the whole question in a like sane and intelligent fashion"—and "muster up the courage and justice to do as the Bermudans have done," they would "wipe out the whole negro question." Thanks, Mr. Eliot! The people of Florida have already done this. With the Australian ballot, free schools—in separate school-houses—for both races, maintained by general taxation, the conditions compare quite favorably with those in Bermuda, and the negroes do not, as there, absorb the entire school fund—it is equitably divided between the races. It would do President Eliot and his kind incalculable good to travel a little and learn something of conditions existing in their own country before presuming to instruct and advise those who know much more than themselves.

TO OUR READERS.

In reentering the broad—and, sometimes, fertile—field of Florida journalism, the publisher desires to speak a few words to his many old and life-long friends throughout old Leon and the adjoining counties of Middle Florida concerning the enterprise and the reasons which have impelled him to engage in it.

When, with health seriously impaired by continuous and devoted attention to the interests of the old Tallahasseean, he sold the outfit and good will of that publication to his old friend and co-worker, Mr. John C. Trice, it was not his intention to return to the newspaper profession. Having later substantially regained his health and made an unexpected but satisfactory disposition of other interests which had engaged his attention, he decided to employ his time and part of his means in building up a job printing business in Tallahassee, where first-class, reasonable-priced job work had become a great public necessity. His exceedingly gratifying success in this direction encouraged him in the belief that he had been especially fortunate in retaining the confidence and patronage of his old friends and neighbors, and when the recent transfer of the Tallahasseean plant and business occurred, resulting in the extinguishment of that newspaper (upon the upbuilding of which he had spent some of the best years of a very busy life), he received so many voluntary assurances of support if he would begin the publication of another to take its place that he soon determined to do so. Having ordered the necessary material, contracted for a large power press to be delivered at an early day, and arranged for the construction of a new building, in an eligible location, especially adapted to the requirements of the business, it was decided not to await the consummation of all of these plans, but to commence the publication immediately, using a "patent inside" temporarily, and a large job press for the printing of a portion of each issue.

The publisher respectfully refers to the prospectus of the new paper, issued some weeks ago and now reproduced elsewhere in this first issue, as an indication of what he hopes The True Democrat may speedily become; and he assures those whom he now addresses, as well as the many hundreds who have in recent years become residents of the Capital City and its vicinity, that no effort will be spared upon his part to supply those who may favor him with their support with an entirely satisfactory weekly newspaper. He asks, in return, that those who desire such a publication will promptly send him their orders for subscriptions and advertising, as well as for first-class job work of every description.

In order to perfect present plans for the publication of the paper, volunteer contributions upon any local or State topic of public interest are cordially invited; a local correspondent will be needed in every town and village, especially throughout Leon county; local news notes and matters of personal interest will be particularly welcome, and liberal terms will be proposed for all of these to every one who expresses a desire to aid in the chief purpose of the enterprise, which is, that Tallahassee and Leon county shall not want for a good, live, thoroughly Democratic home paper, conducted for and by home people.

IMPORTANT DECISION.

Judge Malone, of this circuit, has just rendered a decision in a chancery case, for injunction, that may have a strong bearing upon the status of legislative land grants to railroads. In effect, the decision sustaining the pleas of the respondents—the Board of Trustees of the I. I. Fund—holds that the legislative grants of swamp and overflowed lands lying beyond the six-mile limit of the grantee's line of railroad were made subject to the terms of the trust established in the act of the Legislature creating the Board and giving it control in trust of the lands in question; and hence, all grants except those within the statutory limit must be regarded as not absolute, but dependent upon the final execution of the trust.

It is said that in a somewhat similar case, in the third circuit, Judge Palmer has recently given a decision almost the opposite of Judge Malone's; but as leave was granted in the case just decided by Judge Malone for an amendment of the bill, and as appeals will probably be taken in both cases to the higher courts, this vexed question is quite likely to be further debated and passed upon before it is finally adjudicated.

The man who marries a small woman with the idea that her dream-making bills will not be as large as that of her larger sisters, is due for a big surprise shortly after the honeymoon is over.

RIDING FREE HORSES.

The old adage about "riding a free horse to death" finds abundant illustration in every personal experience, but in none more than in that of every newspaper that is published in this broad land.

The promoters of every conceivable enterprise, public or private, undertake, as their first step towards success, the task of "interesting" the press in their respective projects, with the sole purpose of securing from the newspapers the largest quantity of "publicity" that they can procure—for nothing. And the complacent "liberality" of the average newspaper man, when requested to contribute of his means—space in his columns and expense incurred in mechanical preparation, which constitute his sole stock in trade—is responsible, very largely, for this growing habit. The universal hunger for free advertising has become a national vice, as is demonstrated by the fact that the managers of great national and international exhibitions, with practically unlimited means at their disposal for every other legitimate and necessary expense of promotion, count as one of their chief assets the certainty of securing all of the advertising their enterprise requires without the expenditure of a dollar. And the same is true of every minor scheme of like kind, however meritorious, as every newspaper man can testify.

The popular theory that from sheer patriotism, in the interest of the public, every newspaper should contribute—far beyond the bounds of the most lavish individual generosity—to the promotion of every project which has for its ostensible purpose the public benefit, as distinguished from individual advantage or profit, has acquired enormously undue growth in the public mind; and it would seem that the time has arrived for newspaper men to make an effort in the direction of a correction of this grave abuse of their well-known liberality, which has become not only expensive, but unjust.

As soon as can be made convenient the publisher of The True Democrat will become a member of the Florida Press Association, and hopes to be able to attend the annual meeting at Lake City, March 22. In another column will be found the official program, giving abundant promise of an instructive and delightful occasion.

The Washington correspondents predicted the triumphant acquittal of Judge Swayne, and the Republican Senate promptly adopted Judge Pardee's view of the matter and provided the necessary coat of whitewash, in order that no Republican may be hurt. But don't you pity the lawyers and litigants in Judge Swayne's court when he resumes his place and has a chance to make things warm for those who have been concerned in the effort to get rid of him?

The recent horrible assassination of the Russian Grand Duke Sergius, the uncle and chief adviser of the Czar, was but another demonstration of the fact that absolute monarchy as a method of government is doomed. Russia and Turkey alone remain of the great powers of Europe adherents of that almost absolute form of government, and the very atmosphere of that much-governed continent indicates the changes which must come for the universal freedom of the white races of all lands.

A curious phase of Pensacola journalism was presented during the Swayne impeachment trial, when a reporter of the Daily News of that city testified that he had submitted "a mild account" of the contempt proceedings against certain parties in Judge Swayne's court to the judge himself, who thereupon edited the same for publication. This is an entirely new departure in modern newspaper management, and suggests the possibilities of a censorship which, if generally permitted, might become, at least, embarrassing. Upon being asked why he made his statement of facts, comprising public proceedings in an open court, of a "mild" character, the ingenious reporter innocently replied that he was afraid, "if he got it wrong," that the judge might have him up before the court for contempt, or words to that effect—which was certainly a statement rather damaging to the judge.

The wires announce that W. H. Newman, just elected president of the Vanderbilt railroad system, will receive a salary of \$120,000 a year—\$10,000 a month, \$2,804 a week, \$329 a day—for his services. Governor La Follette of Wisconsin says that the net earnings of one railroad in that State in 1904 were equivalent to 6 per cent on a valuation of \$110,216,000; and yet, when its property in Wisconsin was assessed at \$70,200,000 for taxation, the company protested that it was too high! The net earnings of another company in the same State amounted to 6 per cent on \$112,023,316; but when its property was assessed for taxation at \$71,500,000 it joined with other lines in a suit to set the assessment aside as excessive! These are some of the things which excite and sustain, if they do not justify, the wide-spread and dangerous animosity which prevails in the public mind against corporations generally and railroad corporations in particular. Verily, fairness, justice, honesty, truthfulness and uprightness in their dealings with the public would obviously be, and would have been, the best and safest policy for the preservation of all of their legitimate rights, powers, and privileges, if they had but realized it.

PANACEA SPRINGS LETTER.

From Our Regular Correspondent.] PANACEA SPRINGS, FLA., Feb. 28, 1905.

Well, complying with your request I will give you a few lines from this place for the first issue of The True Democrat. First of all, let me congratulate you upon the birth of the new publication. If it does not come "to fill a long felt want," it will "a want" none the less intense because of its short duration. All those from "the old home" who have come here for the past few weeks have expressed the hope "that John Collins would start a paper." "We need it," they said, "without disparagement to any one now in the field, for where is the town the size of Tallahassee that has only one newspaper?" and the answer had to be "It does not exist." And why shouldn't there be two? The town is large enough for two. In fact, two will do more business than one. With two in the field, the friends of each will rally around it, whereas, with only one in the field the friends become indifferent and those who feel they have no newspaper representation become worse than indifferent.

But, my dear sir, you have set a hard task for your self—that of keeping the paper up to the standard its name indicates—The True Democrat. It is a huge undertaking to run a paper that shall come strictly up to that motto, but I trust that you will master it, and believe the new paper has a large constituency of well-wishers.

The hunting season here, which is about to close, has not been as good as in years past. The weather has not been favorable at all. It has been the severest winter known for many years—if, indeed, not the severest ever known. It has been balmy and fine, however, as compared with ever our sister State—Georgia—and more people than ever before have made this their winter home. Mr. Willard Spencer, the noted playwright of Philadelphia, Pa., with his wife and two children have been here since the first of January, and will be here some time yet. The day following their arrival came Mrs. C. H. Johnson and two children, of Atlanta, who are still with us. One week later Mrs. Johnson was joined by her mother, Mrs. Tigner, of Panama Springs, Ga., and about ten days subsequently the Spencers were joined by their friend, Mrs. Regar, of Norfolk, Pa., who brought two children with her. They are still here.

Mr. Spencer is the most successful wild goose hunter that ever came to Florida, perhaps. When a man kills three or four wild geese in a shooting season he thinks he has done remarkably well. Mr. Spencer, notwithstanding the weather has been exceptionally unfavorable, has killed a dozen or fifteen already. And he keeps ducks in the house all the time.

Mr. Emmett Mitchell, of Thomasville, who is here with his wife for the second time since the hunting season opened, went out yesterday afternoon and killed two very large geese. He had nothing but small shot (No. 4) or there might have been a very different story to tell, as he says the geese came right up within fifty yards of his blind.

As a fishing place Panacea has not sustained its reputation very well in late years until the past week. The writer recalls going out to Otter Lake seven years ago and catching 67 speckled perch and two large trout in one afternoon, and he met J. Emmett McGriff at the train in Tallahassee last Wednesday, the 22d, and Mr. McGriff declared that at Otter Creek Rise—three miles from here—where he was fishing the day before for sheephead he actually had to get behind a stump to bait his hook. As proof of this he said he caught 47 fine fellows in an incredibly short time, when his fiddlers (bait) gave out and the fish would pay no more attention to him or the stump.

But that self-same day—the 22d—the day on which no one is permitted to tell a yarn—not even a fish story—except a true one, because of the great admiration we all have for "the Father of his Country," Captain J. H. Fenn made a new record for Panacea fishing. No previous preparations had been made. He got his bait in the morning and in the afternoon walked out to the fishing place—Otter Creek Rise—and by seven o'clock had walked back to the hotel with 100 of the finest sheephead ever seen in one catch. There were four strings, strung on fishing poles and hanging to the ground with the poles on two tall men's shoulders. Captain John Hewitt, one of Panacea's guides, was with him.

Only a few days before that Mr. E. C. Jones and wife, of Atlanta, went to the same place and did nearly as well. They fished a few hours, until they got tired, and came back with 87. So it will be seen that neither of these catches were mere accidents, but such catches as can be made any day when conditions are favorable. Mr. and Mrs. Jones said they thought they could have caught as many more if the bait had lasted and they had felt inclined to fish longer. Mr. Jones gave it as his candid opinion that two hooks could catch 1500 fish there in one day, by making it hard work instead of a day's recreation and sport.

Your readers, doubtless, have heard of the recent change in management at the hotel. Capt. J. H. Fenn, who came here last September and took a half interest, has sold out to the Panacea Springs Hotel Company, of which John C. Trice, formerly of Tallahassee, is the manager. The new proprietors are going right ahead fixing up things a bit. The contract has been let, and lumber and timber is being put on the ground this week, to build a new bridge across

THE CLASS PROBLEM.

"The Service of Man is the Service of God."

Written for The True Democrat.]

The real need of the age is a closer fellowship between man and man, a sentiment which has been crowded out and suppressed by the wild chase after the almighty dollar. But the reflex action is bound to come; man will not always be satisfied with the worship of "Mammon." Emerson says: "Tis pitiful, the things by which we are rich or poor, a matter of coins, coats and carpets; a little more or less of stone or wood or paint, the fashion of a cloak or hat." Indeed, the *cui bono* of this gain of the world by the loss of soul powers has already presented itself to some of our moneyed men, and the thought has crystallized into numerous acts of public benefaction, for the cultivation of the higher life of the many. These few who are no longer striving for things, have discovered that real happiness lies not in wealth and power, but that only by doing for others can we reach the highest expression of ourselves. In other words, have found that thus only can we "move upward, working out the beast."

Alexander Gunn, "the Hermit of Zoar," beautifully expresses this ideal life as "without pride; to be always good and simple and friendly; to love and be loved." When the pomps and vanities no longer hold us we will recognize each other as brothers and dear comrades, and will be surprised in this new light to find how much of beauty, of goodness and of simple joy has escaped us, and also to find how complete life is when self is no longer first.

Ruskin has said that he held his talent in trust for God's poor; and his life demonstrated his sincerity. He inherited \$750,000, he made \$500,000, and he gave all but \$40,000 (which yielded an income of \$1,500) to his brother man. And this is the spirit in which he gave it: "It is nothing to give food and medicine to the workman who has broken his arm, or the decrepit woman wasting in sickness. But it is something to use your time and strength to war with the waywardness and thoughtlessness of mankind; to keep the erring workman in your service until you have made him an unerring one, and to direct your fellow merchant to the apostleship, which his judgment would have lost."

All this is but altruism, it may be said, and not at all practical. But when we call to mind how the spirit of brotherhood has grown, say, since the fourteenth century, when the equality of all men and the gospel of labor first found expression in English literature, through Langland's vision of Piers Plowman, and when we take into consideration the great men who have not only given their writings, but their lives, to establish these great principles, we can no longer doubt that the movement is gaining ground. Surely such men as Ruskin, Kingsley and others who have "pointed the way" have not lived in vain. All these were imbued with the idea that universal brotherhood is the sovereign agent of economic reformation, and the messages of their lives are quietly working in the minds of men, imperceptibly perhaps, but still a living force. The movement will be slow, but each step must be well taken, remembering that the greater the undertaking the slower the progress.

"The true foundations of a State are not liberty, but obedience; not mutual antagonism, but mutual help." When this sentiment becomes general the struggle for the mastery between classes will cease, and the world, influenced by the great spirit of brotherhood, will unconsciously have evolved peace.

Z. D. ADAMS.

Pensacola, Fla.

Cash Discount Sale!

I am going to move my stock of Groceries, and in order to reduce my stock and save expense of moving same will give a 10 per cent. discount on all cash purchases until I move. Come early! It won't be long before I move.

Yours truly, J. L. PRINGLE, At Old Express Office, Opposite Telephone building.

Worth Trying.

Here are two easy little things worth trying for the present year:

First, to give some one at least one little thrill of extra happiness by a kind word or deed, in addition to those which spring up spontaneously from your heart. Create one extra one each day by your own conscious effort.

Second, stifle at least one hasty word or ungenerous deed each day, that would have found expression but for this campaign of self-watchfulness. Did you ever stop and think how much brighter any one of us can make this world just by adding to it these 365 rays of sunshine, and suppressing 365 of its small clouds each year?—Selected.

Otter creek, and as soon as that is completed work will begin on the track, which needs overhauling badly.

Mrs. Butler, housekeeper at the hotel, has returned from a trip to Tallahassee.

Hon. F. W. Duval, of Crawfordville, was here yesterday.

The arrivals at the hotel last evening were Messrs. A. J. Moyer and J. J. McDonald, of Outhbert, Ga.

Mrs. F. P. Crum, of Pelham, Ga., is a recent arrival, who came for the water, and will be here for some time. She was accompanied on the trip down by her husband, but, on account of business, he could stay but one day.

Game Warden Smith gives notice that he will prosecute violators of the law for hunting turkeys, deer, and quail after this date. PANACEA.